

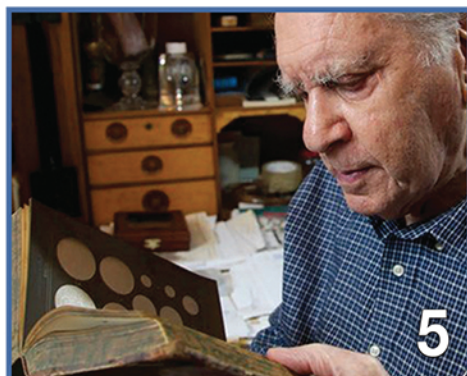
THE Asylum

VOL. 36 NO. 1



SPRING 2018

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society • COINBOOKS.ORG



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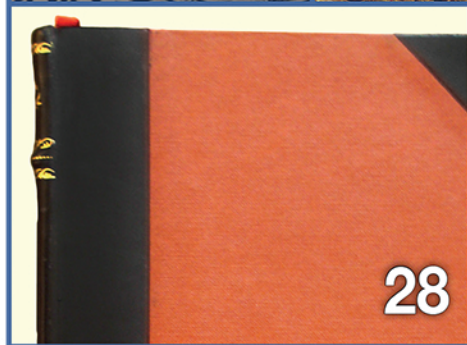
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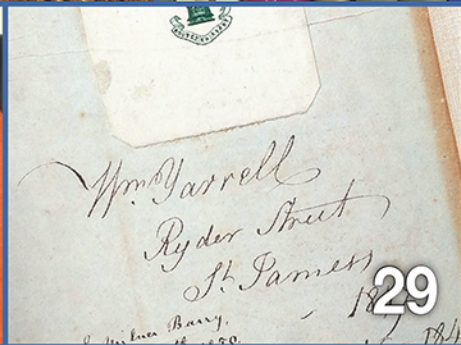
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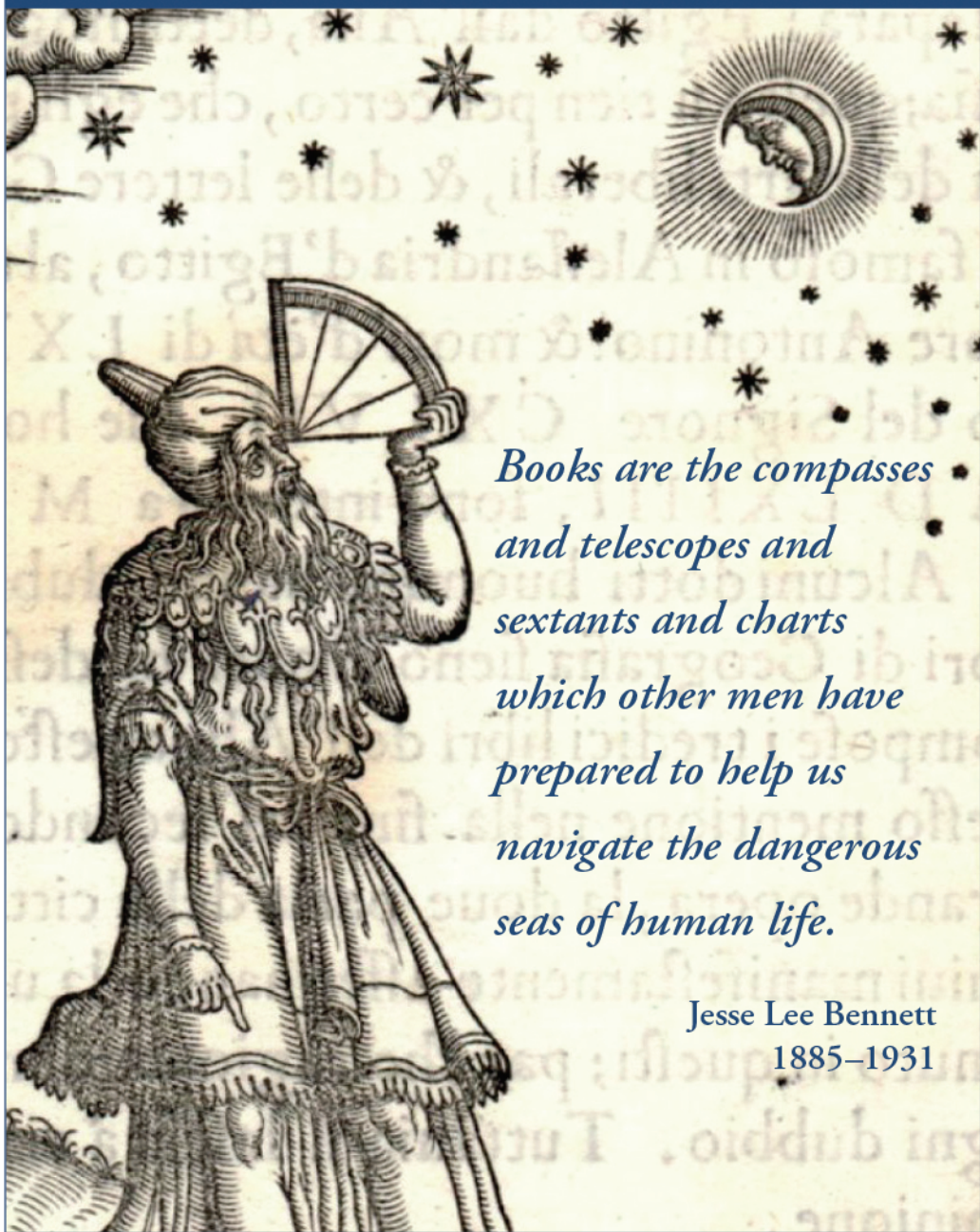
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*Books are the compasses
and telescopes and
sextants and charts
which other men have
prepared to help us
navigate the dangerous
seas of human life.*

Jesse Lee Bennett

1885–1931



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Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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Tom Harrison
NBS President

Message from the President

I am pleased to announce the Numismatic Bibliomania Society is the honored recipient of a very generous donation from the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society. This windfall will help bolster our financial health as we continue our mission to promote the appreciation and preservation of numismatic literature that was the foundation of Mr. Newman's research and discovery. We will endeavor to sustain the legacy of Eric P. Newman, a numismatic luminary, who inspired many of our members to emulate the benchmark he established over his nearly one hundred years immersed in the world of numismatics. The NBS is sincerely grateful for this thoughtful gesture that will enhance the entire numismatic literature community.

As we turn the calendar to 2018, it is not too early to begin planning for our annual events at this year's ANA World's Fair of Money in Philadelphia. We hope many of you will be able to join your fellow NBSers at our Symposium and General Meeting to connect with old friends and make new acquaintances.

The gathering provides several opportunities to share our enthusiasm and promote our fine hobby. The benefit auction held at the General Meeting is crucial to the financial health of the NBS. Whether you have an item valued at \$25.00 or several hundred



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dollars, your donation will play a significant role in the success of your organization. Of course, the primary focus of the auction is to shore up our finances, while at the same time, striving to generate some fun. In an effort to spice up the auction, would you have an amusing, oddball, or novel item to contribute for the betterment of the NBS? It would be a notable sign of our vitality to see a wider pool of donors and bidders at this year's event. Even if you are unable to join us in Philadelphia, please consider this all-important opportunity to support your NBS. Again this year David Fanning has graciously offered to accept donated items and create a catalog for the auction. Your donations can be sent to Kolbe & Fanning, 141 W. Johnstown Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230.

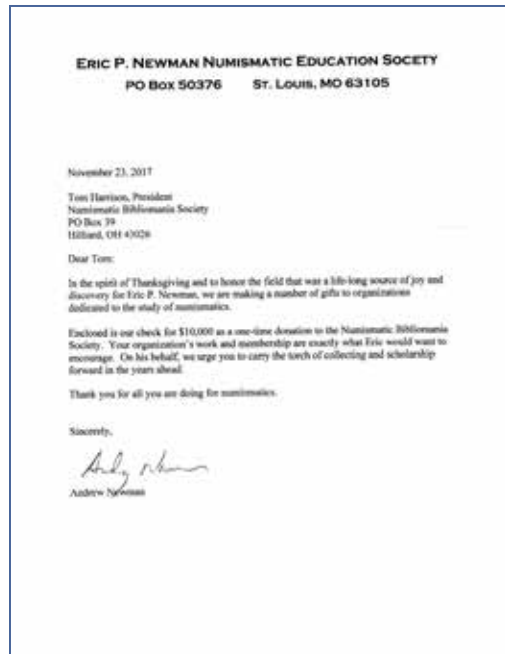
A numismatic literature exhibit is an excellent way to promote our hobby to the greater numismatic community. Your educational and eye-catching display could be the catalyst that inspires other numismatists to enrich their collection with the addition of related literature. With a registration deadline of June 15th, 2018, there is plenty of time to consider and create a fascinating exhibit for this year's premier numismatic event.

As we look forward to 2018, please know that I, the NBS Board of Trustees and the entire numismatic literature community truly appreciate each member's contribution. May your numismatic library provide investigation, discovery, and most of all, enjoyment.

NBS Receives Generous Donation from EPNNES

The Numismatic Bibliomania Society wishes to extend our profound gratitude and appreciation to the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society for this very generous donation.

The NBS will strive to carry on Eric P. Newman's enthusiasm for numismatic research, discovery and scholarship that was at the heart of his numismatic journey.



Eric P. Newman 1911-2017

Vignettes from a Life Extraordinary

By Joel J. Orosz

Tributes to the personality and achievements of Eric P. Newman have—unsurprisingly—been offered in profusion since this truly exceptional numismatist left us in November of last year. Another conventional obituary is therefore hardly needed or desired, so it seems more appropriate to share some vignettes that may illuminate some of the lesser-appreciated impacts of his life and character.

Eric's numismatic life was lived largely in the pages

of his scholarship and in the headlines generated by several of the controversies in which he was entangled, but in his open book of a life, there were also several quieter achievements, known mainly to a handful of witnesses and participants. One such example is the ongoing Eric P. Newman Graduate Seminar in Numismatics at the American Numismatic Society, which he not only endowed, but also where, for many years, he rolled up his sleeves and instructed.

Lesser appreciated still was Eric's subtle role in the establishment of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. Every good NBS member knows that the Society was co-founded by the late Jack Collins and George Frederick Kolbe, with its first formal meeting held at the Cincinnati ANA convention in 1980. The year prior, however, the ANA was held in St. Louis, and an informal gathering of bibliomaniacs laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Society. Eric was not present at the informal meeting in 1979 (he attended relatively few numismatic conventions during his long life), but his subsequent approval of the Collins/Kolbe brainchild *mattered*. It's hard to imagine the NBS getting off the ground at that point in the history of the hobby had Eric Newman pronounced it a silly idea. Conversely, his enthusiastic endorsement put wind in the infant Society's sails. And after the NBS was up and running, Eric was one of the more frequently published authors in its journal, *The Asylum*.

By the 1980s, when I made my first forays into numismatic writing, Eric's stature in the field was positively Olympian. I was fortunate, indeed, to have another nu-



Eric Newman speaking at a C4 conference in Boston in 2001. Photo by Craig McDonald.

mismatic titan, Q. David Bowers, publish my first numismatic book, *The Eagle That is Forgotten*. When Dave casually suggested that, given its focus on Eric's specialty of colonial numismatics, we should ask him to write the book's foreword, I was gob smacked by the thought. It was as if I were a raw rookie for the Atlanta Braves asking Hank Aaron to bat lead-off for me. I quickly learned that Eric couldn't care less about a person's age, gender, race, or religious affiliation: what mattered to him was the quality of the scholarship. If it was good, you got his respect and assistance; if it wasn't, you got a blunt critique and an exhortation to do better—*much better*—next time. What I got, thankfully, was a generous foreword for *The Eagle*, and nearly 30 years of friendship with the epitome of a gentleman and a scholar.

His intellectual curiosity—and generosity—were unbounded. When the late Carl Herkowitz and I were working on “George Washington and America's ‘Small Beginning’ in Coinage,” published in *The American Journal of Numismatics*, in 2003, Eric morphed from a reader into virtually a co-author, providing research, insights and interpretation, though he adamantly refused to have his name listed as one of the article's writers. It would have been published without his assistance, but it would have been an impoverished paper without his manifold contributions.

I would be fibbing were I to imply, however, that Eric was a pussycat. He wasn't given to perceiving life in shades of grey; his vision ran almost exclusively to tones of black and white. Most Americans tend toward the Pragmatic philosophy of William James, which holds that ideas must be tested for their truth or falsity, and that determinations will vary with the situation. Take the idea of theft. It is a bad outcome if the thief is stealing gold coins to satisfy his greed; it is a good outcome if an unemployed mother steals bread to feed her starving children. Eric took a countervailing moral stance: stealing was always wrong, no matter what the context. He dismissed anyone who attempted to offer extenuating circumstances, for example, regarding Dr. William Sheldon's coin-swapping at the ANS: theft was theft. Similarly, coins not struck with full legal authorization were “novodels,” and not worthy of respect or consideration. This is why Eric never owned an 1804 dollar, despite (with Ken Bressett) “writing the book” on the subject, and why he quickly sold all five 1913 Liberty Nickels, but kept the case in which they came.

Shortly after writing the foreword for *The Eagle*, Eric made his morality perfectly plain to me. I had claimed, in my “Printer's Devil” column in the Summer, 1989 issue of *The Asylum*, that I was the person who had first brought Pierre Eugène Du Simitière (*The Eagle* of the title) to the attention of American numismatists. This brought a tart response from Eric, pointing out that he had made that introduction more than twenty years before, in the first edition of his book, *The Early Paper Money of America*, and pointedly suggesting that I make a correction forthwith. He was right and I was wrong, and I hastened to write the *mea culpa*.

Given his highly ethical approach to all business and hobby dealings, it was inevitable that fraudulent coins constituted Eric's particular *bête noir*. He made a careful distinction between a *forgery* (a false numismatic piece made primarily with an intention to defraud or deceive collectors) and a *counterfeit*, (a false piece intended to be introduced into circulation as current money). Under these definitions, counterfeits, if they circulated during their time period, could be valuable objects of study (such as

the profusion of counterfeit English halfpence that circulated alongside genuine examples in the American colonies). Forgeries, however, were beneath contempt. Eric was constantly on the prowl for fakes, and everyone remembers the “big game” he bagged, such the Good Samaritan Shilling and the “1805” American silver dollar. But he also denounced a number of lesser-known frauds, such as a fake Oak Tree Shilling, a fake St. Patrick’s Farthing, and a modern die-struck forgery of a 1787 *Auctori Plebis* token.



Eric and Evelyn Newman at home c.1950.

Eric was made of stern stuff, but there was a whimsical scholar never far from the surface. In 2009, when Len Augsburger and I were doing research for *The Secret History of the First U.S. Mint*, we had the pleasure of breakfasting with Eric and his wife Evelyn at their home, where we learned some information extremely important to our topic, then proceeded to the nearby Newman Library and Museum at Washington University, where we had the distinct honor of a guided tour from the founder himself. A standout memory of this event is the expressions on the faces of casual visitors to the Museum as Eric expounded on its historical treasures. One family surreptitiously followed us from display case to display case, and were rewarded for their stealth with an exciting explication of the Washington President obverse / 13 star eagle reverse gold coin that Eric firmly believed was once President George Washington’s pocket piece.

The incident that seemed most remarkable to us, however, came from that morning’s breakfast. Len and I mentioned a very minor character in the story of Frank H. Stewart, the man who bought the remaining buildings of the first U.S. Mint, attempted to preserve them, eventually razed them, and then wrote one of the seminal studies of that institution, *The History of the First United States Mint*. We had discovered that an obscure fellow named John J. Carey, Sr. had once claimed that he, not Stewart, had provided all of the source material for *The History of the First United States Mint*. Eric immediately stated that he had once had some correspondence with Mr. Carey “in either 1961 or 1962,” and promised to track it down for us. Sure enough, within a week he had found two letters from Carey, written in July and August of 1962, copies of which provided enough evidence to allow us to refute Carey’s claims of being helpful to Stewart. Len and I could only marvel that, at the age of 98, Eric could instantly recall the correspondence he had with an ephemeral character some 47 years before, nearly pinpoint it as to year, and quickly retrieve it from his correspondence files. As another dividend of that visit, Eric also honored us by writing the foreword to *The Secret History*.

If you wanted to truly get to know Eric Newman, you had to make a trek to 6450 Cecil in Clayton, Missouri, a stately red brick edifice that Eric called home for more

than ninety years. That is no typo; he moved in when he was ten, and moved out when he was 102. Here was his numismatic headquarters, which were strategically dispersed throughout four levels of this handsome Georgian-style manse. The attic served as a repository of data. On the second floor, the bedrooms once belonging to his now-grown children, Andy and Linda, were occupied as offices for the numismatic cause. On the main floor, a built-in desk and filing system occupied a corner of the living room. And the basement was largely given over to a phalanx of filing cabinets, more than could be counted on fingers and toes, all literally crammed with a lifetime's numismatic correspondence. In the middle of this personal archive, space was appropriated for Eric's workshop, and storage in nooks and crannies was reserved for tokens of small monetary, but substantial historical value. Not only were the filing cabinets filled to the gunwales with publications and information abstracted from journals and newspapers, the other spaces held objects of *virtu* ranging widely over time and topic. Behold a suit of armor once belonging to Eric's mentor, the great St. Louis coin dealer Burdette Johnson; or an early printed broadside of the Declaration of Independence posted in Warwick, Rhode Island in July of 1776; and a piece of roofing timber once part of the first United States Mint. It was entropic in the extreme, but it was also a treasure trove for any numismatist to admire.

Just how extensive was the archive in the Newman basement? When Roger Burdette, Len Augsburger and I were commissioned by Heritage to write Eric's biography, *Truth Seeker*, an essential first step was cartographic: we literally had to map the basement to identify the location and contents of all filing cabinets and other information-bearing strata so that we could understand the full parameters of the search for data that confronted us. Throughout the process, the freshet of sources with which we started grew ever more torrential as boxes arrived from Eric's downtown office and from the Newman Money Museum, stuffed with information both novel and supplementary to that already in hand. Try as we might, it proved impossible to examine every single document. When the full range of these papers are at last all organized and scanned into the Newman Numismatic Portal, the patient researcher will find information to expand upon what we published, and new sources to improve the story—I should say *stories*—of Eric P. Newman's singular journey through seven decades of exemplary numismatic exploration.

It is fitting to conclude with a brief consideration of Eric's most significant lasting memorial, the Newman Numismatic Portal. It was not Eric's idea—a number of people had cogitated similar plans—but only the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (EPNNES) could actualize it, and there could not be a more appropriate way to memorialize Eric the man and the numismatist. Here was a scholar whose numismatic investigations took him not just to the "usual suspects" in research, such as the libraries of the American Numismatic Society and the American Numismatic Association, but also to the national Papers projects of Benjamin Franklin and of Robert Morris, the Austrian National Library, and obscure early publications like cambists and conversion tables. The data he patiently stalked, sometimes for years on end, will now be available, thanks to the support of the EPNNES, on the NNP with merely a few keystrokes. Eric was always the hobby's greatest enthusiast and cheerleader for original numismatic research, and the NNP has already provided signifi-

cant momentum to that endeavor, which will only grow greater with the passage of time. EPNNES has simultaneously memorialized its founder and revolutionized the creation of knowledge in numismatics, a “double play” worthy of Eric’s ingenuity and intense devotion to the numismatic enterprise.

EPNNES, like its late namesake, is nothing if not an overachiever. In November 2017 EPNNES made unsolicited grants to dozens of numismatic specialty clubs and coin clubs to further the cause of numismatic education. The Numismatic Bibliomania Society’s share of this largesse is \$10,000, far and away the largest single gift in the NBS’s 39 year history.

Every time I use the immense stockpile of curated information that NNP freely provides, I think of the man himself, that fascinating combination of stern moralist and witty raconteur, tut-tutting schoolmaster and intellectually rebellious thinker, and I think it absolutely providential that Eric was one of us coin hounds. One of us, and yet more: he undeniably was the hound at the head of the pack, always sniffing out new facts and unexpected connections, and sharing them with us in bright, fresh, yet well-documented prose. It was a rare fact he could not find, and those few that eluded him, such as the true origin of the Continental dollar, still elude us all to this day.

In August of 1941, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill met aboard a warship anchored off the coast of Newfoundland at Argentia Bay. There, the two leaders produced the Atlantic Charter, and Roosevelt cabled Churchill after the meeting: “It is fun to be in the same decade with you.” What greater fun for most of us reading these vignettes, to have been in the same decades with Eric P. Newman, spanning parts of two millennia. And more than that: what a signal honor.



A Tribute to Eric P. Newman

By Peter Gaspar

It is to Eric’s kindness and patience to which I wish to call attention. During the many decades that Eric and Evelyn lived on Cecil Way, only a mile from my Clayton home, I visited Eric several times a week to discuss numismatic matters. He was often consulted for advice or assistance by family or friends, but no matter how deeply we were immersed in our discussions, Eric always took the time to hear out his caller and offer what help or counsel that he could.

So I was given lessons as a human being as well as a numismatist. I only wish that I had learned the former as well as I learned the numismatic lessons.

By Eric’s passing we have lost a man whose impact far exceeded the numismatic sphere.



Phil Carrigan: Some Recollections

By David F. Fanning

Given that more formal obituaries have been published in the *E-Sylum* and elsewhere, I thought I'd just jot down a few recollections about my friend Phil Carrigan.

I'm not sure, but I believe we first met in person at a PAN show perhaps 15 years ago. But Phil would have been among my earliest customers once I returned to the hobby in 1999. Phil was an assiduous collector of American numismatic auction catalogues, and since the early U.S. catalogues were my first love in the area of numismatic literature, we had plenty in common. We both enjoyed studying the history of the hobby, especially the hobby of the 19th and early 20th centuries, and felt that the auction catalogues played a major role in telling that story. We also shared the conviction

that the story really couldn't be told if one just focused on the major dealers or the landmark sales: the full story included the third-tier dealers and the forgettable sales as well as the Woodward and Chapmans, the Mickleys and Stickneys.

We had other things in common. We both lived in the Midwest (though he was imported from Boston), and both had Ph.D.s (though his, in pharmacokinetics, sounded a lot more impressive than mine in English!). Furthermore, we were both interested in early Canadian tokens, a strange little area of numismatics that is beloved by a close cadre of collectors in both the U.S. and Canada. I recall Phil visiting me at my home in the Columbus area and the two of us combining our notes to try to puzzle out the bibliographic details of our mutual friend Warren Baker's frequently undated or unnumbered fixed-price catalogues.

In 2015, I was able to make a sale that really made me happy. For years, Phil had been trying to complete his set of Stack's catalogues. He needed two of them at one point, and I had been able to close the gap to one. That one remaining catalogue (Oct. 30, 1937) haunted his Want List for ages. Finally, I found a copy. I was about to call Phil and let him know, when I had a better idea. I contacted his wife, Mary Clare, and told her what I'd found. She knew all about the sole missing catalogue and was very happy to purchase it for Phil. She gave it to him for Father's Day, 2015, which cheers me to think about. Phil was a neat guy, and I'll miss him.



© The Chicago Tribune



Unissued Edward VIII Notes Highlight Regina Coin Show

By George Manz, FRCNA

George Manz is a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association and President of the Regina Coin Club.

The Regina Coin Club Show in April 2018 features a set of unissued 1937 Bank of Canada bilingual \$1 notes that depict King Edward VIII.

When King George V died on January 20, 1936, his eldest son became king. He took the name Edward VIII. For several years, Edward VIII had been involved with an American divorcee named Wallis Simpson and wanted to marry her. Marriage to a divorced woman was not allowed because the King, as head of the Church of England, was sworn to uphold his title as Defender of the Faith.

Edward VIII decided that he would rather give up his kingship and marry the love of his life. So on December 10, 1936, Edward VIII signed the Instrument of Abdication. The next day, Edward made a farewell radio broadcast to the nation from Windsor Castle, and left for France by ship.

Edward VIII married Wallis Simpson on June 3, 1937 in France. Not one member of the Royal Family attended the wedding, much to the chagrin of the married couple.

But before 42-year-old Edward VIII abdicated, new British and Commonwealth coins, medals and paper money were proposed.

Edward VIII did not like his right profile of his face, preferring his left side. As his father, George V faced left on his coinage, Edward VIII refused the longstanding tradition of having the new monarch face the other direction. But he was king and overruled Royal Mint and other officials.

So images were designed and a small number of British patterns were made prior to his abdication. All are rare. Coins bearing Edward's name (but not his portrait), were issued for six overseas colonies including British East Africa, British West Africa, Fiji and New Guinea, as well as the Indian states of Jodhpur and Kutch.

On display at the Regina Coin Club show is a set of photographic tintype proofs of the face and back of the proposed Bank of Canada bilingual \$1 banknote dated Jan. 3, 1937.

By October 1936, both the Canadian Bank Note Company and the American Bank Note Company had received orders from the Bank of Canada to design new banknotes that would replace those issued in 1935. These proofs were the fruits of their labour.





The face of the note depicts the central vignette of Edward VIII, as Prince of Wales, in the uniform of the Seaforth Highlanders, while the back of the note depicts an allegorical figure of a woman representing agriculture. These are the only known examples of an Edward VIII portrait on Canadian currency in private hands.

Also on display will be a die proof vignette of H.M. King Edward VIII that was used to make the tintype proofs. The vignette includes the hand-signed signature of the engraver, Robert Savage.

The excellent book, *Portraits of a Prince: Coins, Medals and Banknotes of Edward VIII* by Joseph S. Giordano Jr, indicates that the tintype proofs are possibly unique, while the vignette is extremely rare.

Edward VIII died in 1972. He is buried in the Royal Cemetery at Frogmore at Windsor Great Park. His wife is buried beside him.

The Regina Coin Club thanks an anonymous Canadian collector for lending us these proofs for our coin show. The Regina Coin Club show and sale takes place April 21-22, 2018 at the Turvey Centre near Regina.



On the Countermarked Ancient Coins from the Collection of Alphonso II d'Este (1533-1597)

By Hadrien J. Rambach

Since the seventeenth century, almost two dozen scholars have referred to these countermarks, with two conflicting theories: that the eagle is the sign of the Este family, or that the eagle is the sign of the Gonzaga family¹. The question is more complex than it seems, because, for sure, these coins did belong to the Este family. Indeed, to fight in the 'War of the Mantuan Succession' (1628-1631), Duke Charles Gonzaga of Nevers (1609-1631) had to hire mercenaries. To finance this war, he pawned the Gonzaga coin collection to the Este, but was never able to buy it back². Therefore, whether the countermark was commissioned by the Este or by the Gonzaga family, the countermarked coins belonged to the Este family by 1628. Therefore, the countermark does, for sure, indicate an Este provenance: the question is whether it was placed by the Gonzaga family (previous to 1628), or by the Este family (whether before or after the acquisition of the Gonzaga collection).

Luckily, a definite answer can be given: the countermarked coins belonged to the Este family before the merger of their collection with the Gonzaga's. Indeed, when Alfonso II d'Este died childless in 1597, his belongings were inherited by his cousin Ce-



Figs 1-2. *Aureus* struck in Rome in January-April 43 BC, in the name of moneyers Lucius Cestius and Gaius Norbanus Flaccus. Weight 7.97 grams. On the obverse, the draped bust of Sibyl. On the reverse, Cybele enthroned in a biga of lions. Private collection. Photo © J. Paul Getty Museum.

1 See Rambach 2017.

2 See Simonetta-Riva 1983, 334.



Fig. 3. Antonio Pisano, a.k.a. « Pisanello », *Bust of Leonello II d'Este*, around 1441, oil on canvas, 28 × 19 cm. Accademia Carrara (Bergamo), inv. 58MR00010, formerly in the Giovanni Morelli collection (1891). Photo © Accademia Carrara.

sare d'Este (1561-1628). But Cesare was forced to give the town of Ferrara to the Pope and to move his court to Modena. This succession impoverished the family, and on 6 August 1614 in Florence the Duke was forced to pawn a group of jewels, a gold vase, and 710 gold coins. By August 1645, the coins had still not been redeemed, and the director of the *Monte di Pietà* suggested to melt them all. Luckily, at the suggestion of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Leopoldo de' Medici (1617-1675), the Duke of Modena bought the coins back on 4 June 1647 and exchanged 252 *aurei* with the Medici collection. These coins, which can be identified in the Florentine museum, are all countermarked, which indicates that they already bore the silver eagle by 1614.

This eagle, in silver when the coins are struck in gold or bronze, in gold when the coins are in silver, is therefore the sign that the coin belonged to the Dukes of Ferrara / Modena before

1614. It is believed that, out of 12,000 to 15,000 coins in the Este collection, some 1,500/2,000 were countermarked. This exceptional collection was initiated by Leonello d'Este (1407-1450), Marquis of Ferrara, patron of the medallist Pisanello, who had started to buy before 1430³, mostly bronze coins⁴. Ercole I d'Este (1431-1505), who owned 437 ancient gold coins in 1494⁵, had notably acquired coins from the collection of the late Pope Paul II (Pietro Barbo, 1417-1471). Then, his son Alfonso I d'Este (1476-1534) asked the painter Raphael his help to find "*antique medals, heads and figures*"⁶. A catalogue was established 1538/41 under the rule of Ercole II d'Este (1508-1559), by which time the collection contained 783 ancient gold coins⁷. Finally, the collection reached its peak under Alfonso II d'Este (1533-1597), who continued to acquire coins: for example, in 1568 he was offered the collection of Cardinal

3 This pre-1430 date was given by Ciriaco d'Ancona in 1449: see MISSERE 1993, 33.

4 "*Nam idcirco frequentiores ex aere quam ex auro argentoque fuerunt*". Quoted in Corradini 1991, 404.

5 See CORRADINI 1991, 405.

6 "*Medaglie, teste e figure antiche*": from a letter addressed by Bishop Beltrame Costabili to the Duke, on 27 August 1516, in which he confirms that the artist is currently searching such items for him. Quoted in MISSERE 1993, 33.

7 MISSERE 1993.



Fig. 4. Ascribed to Prospero Spani « il Clemente », *Bust of Leonello II d'Este*, around 1560/70, marble, 96 × 57 cm. Auction in London, 6 July 2017, lot 76. Photo © Sotheby's.

(future Saint) Charles Borromeo (1538-1584)⁸, and in 1589 he considered acquiring the collection of the antiquarian Jacopo Strada (1507-1588)⁹.

The question remains to understand when and why these coins were countermarked. Some of the countermarked coins are great rarities, easy to identify in a Renaissance catalogue: the presence of some of them in the 1538/41 manuscript catalogue by Calcagnini of the Este collection¹⁰, but not of all of them, indicates that the apposition of the eagle must post-date the 1540s. The artist and scholar Enea Vico (1523-1567), who was in charge of acquisitions and wrote in 1563 about the collection, made no mention of the eagle countermark¹¹: whilst this is no definite proof, it suggests that the mark was placed afterwards. A likely possibility is that the mark was placed when an exhibition

was prepared under the direction of Pirro Ligorio (c.1510-1583), who had arrived in Ferrara in 1568 and worked until 1574 at the Duke's *Antichario*, reorganising his collections within the library¹².

So, the Este family placed the eagle countermark on some of their coins before 1614, and recovered 710 pawned countermarked *aurei* in 1647 (of which 252 are in the Florence museum)¹³. Some of the remaining coins were taken with him by Hercules III d'Este (1727-1803) when he fled to Venice and sold in 1796 to a local abbot (whose collection is now in the Milan museum). Some more coins had remained in Modena, and were confiscated by Napoleonic soldiers—France returned 560 bronze and 14 silver coins in 1815. How the rest of the collection was dispersed remains unclear, but few coins had remained within the family: the Este family had only 61

8 Letter preserved in Modena (ASMo, ASE, Cancellaria Ducale, Ambasciatori, Milano, b. 40), sent to the Duke on 7 January 1568 by Tommaso Zerbinati from Milan.

9 See Poggi 2001, 234, note 52.

10 Celio Calcagnini. *Aureorum Numismatum Illustrissimi Herculis Secundi, Ducis Ferrariae Quarti, Elenchus*. Modena, [s. d.] (between 1538 and 1541). Manuscrit. Biblioteca Estense Universitaria di Modena, Cod. Lat. 152 = a.T.6.16. Transcribed by Luigi Lodi and published in the *Documenti inediti per servire alla storia dei musei d'Italia*. Vol. II (1879), 100-155.

11 POGGI 2001, 195.

12 See Corradini 1987, 173-178; Poggi 2001, 195-196; Poggi 2005, 524.

13 See Catalli Fuda 2014 and Catalli 2017.

gold coins left by 1662¹⁴. The correspondence of Francesco Gottifredi (1595-1669) in the years 1650-1660 refers to great quantities of *aurei*, so it is a likely possibility that he was selling them on behalf of the Este family. A possibility is also that he bought them himself: a collector since around 1616¹⁵, he sold his own collection to Queen Christina of Sweden (1626-1689), who owned countermarked coins in 1661¹⁶.

To summarize, the coins countermarked with an eagle were the property of the Este family, formed since the 1420s in Ferrara and later Modena. The mark was likely done in the early 1570s, but for certain before 1614. A large number of coins were sold in the 1650s, with many pieces entering the collection of Queen Christina. Gold coins exchanged with the Grand-Duke of Tuscany in 1647 are preserved in the Florence museum; coins sold by the last Duke of Modena in 1796 are now in the Milan museum; bronze and silver coins that had been confiscated by the French armies were returned in the Modena museum in 1815; and the great majority of the coins are dispersed worldwide in museums and private collections, unidentifiable for the most part.

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14 ASMo, *Archivio per Materie, Galleria e Museo Estense, Inventario della Robba di Camerini fatto il dì 28 agosto tutto il dì 7 settembre 1662*. Noted in Missere 1993, 34, and in Poggi 1998, 215.

15 See MISSERE FONTANA 2009, 277, note 271.

16 Letter sent by Francesco Gottifredi to Cardinal Camillo Massimo on 14 March 1661 (letter preserved in Pesaro, Biblioteca Oliveriana, ms. no. 76, quoted in POGGI 2003, 99-100). Those coins were likely later acquired by Don Livio Odescalchi (1655-1713), who was said in 1721 to own many countermarked coins in a letter sent by Maffei on 28 July 1721 to Lodovico Antonio Muratori (quoted in POGGI 1998, 225-226).

17 I am grateful to Laurent Schmitt for letting me know in February 2018 that the Maison Platt auction on 28 November 1983 (the C. Herrenschmidt collection) contained several tens of countermarked coins (mostly bronze), but that they hadn't been described as such in the catalogue.

- 'un prezioso avanzo.' » In *Sovrane Passioni. Studi sul collezionismo Estense*. Milan, 1998. 215-237.
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STEPHEN ALBUM RARE COINS

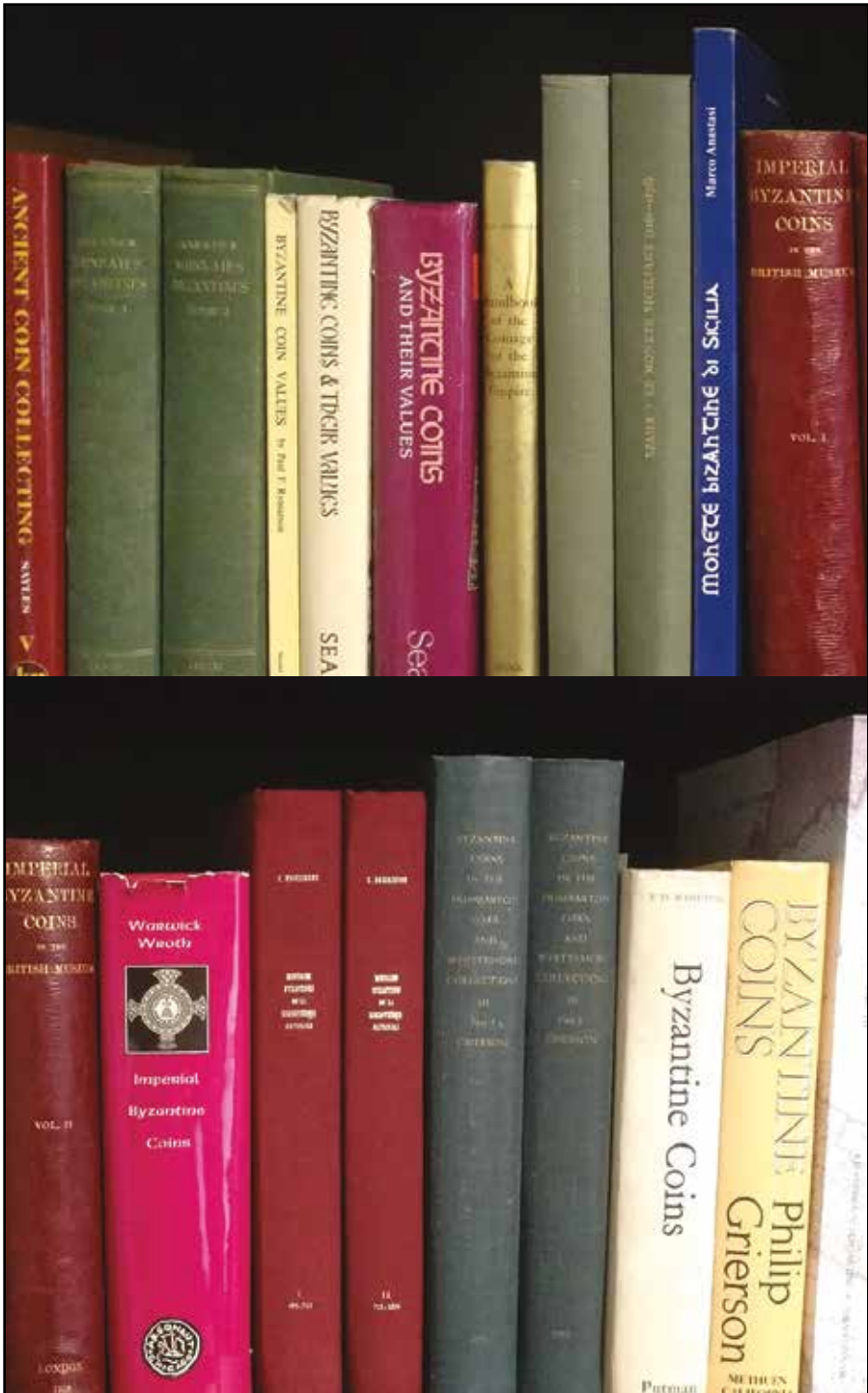


stevealbum.com

Numismatic Nugget

The Heslop's Conder token (Middlesex 1/2 penny D&H 336) is also a magic token, attributed as MT159 by Kuethe. The obverse depicts Joseph Clark who has been reputed to be the greatest contortionist who ever lived. Even though he was obese he still was able to some seemingly impossible poses.

Submitted by Jud Petrie.



Buy the Book *For* the Coin

Books for the Byzantine Coin Collector

By Michael Shutterly

The first and best advice most coin collectors receive is “Buy the book before the coin.” But why stop with just “the” book? After all, no one book can provide all the information and insights about a coin that a dedicated collector wants or needs.

Let’s see how a single coin—in this case, a gold solidus struck by the Byzantine emperor Theophilos—could trigger a collector’s bibliomania.

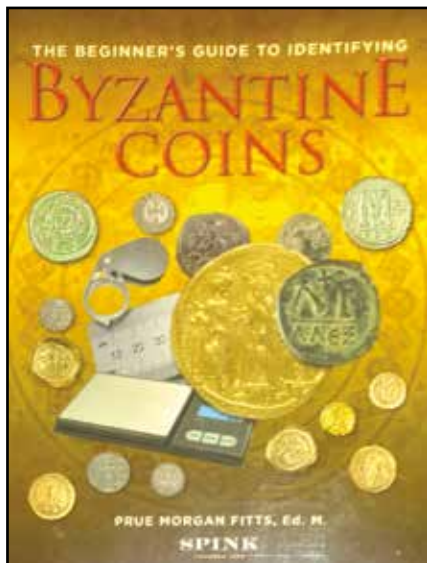
General Guidebooks

The first books our collector would acquire would be general guides to collecting Byzantine coins: she wants to understand just what, exactly, constitutes a “Byzantine” coin in the first place. She would start with a pair of books from a pair of experts.

The Beginner’s Guide to Identifying Byzantine Coins.

Prue M. Fitts, an experienced and very serious collector of Byzantine coins, is the “Empress” and a founder of the Association of Dedicated Byzantine Collectors, the major organization of Byzantine coin collectors in the United States. She has twice received the Presidential Award from the ANA, as well as the ANA’s Glenn B. Smedley Memorial Award and the ANA’s highest honor, the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award.

Fitts’s *Beginner’s Guide* covers the coins of the Byzantine Empire from Anastasius I (reigned 491-518) to the fall of Constantinople under Constantine XI (reigned 1448-1453). It teaches the budding collector how to identify Byzantine coins by ruler, by denomination, by mint, and by general type. Fitts explains the meaning of many of the symbols and inscriptions that appear on the coins, and provides historical context for them. She also provides guidance on several different ways to collect Byzantine coins and advises on the best methods for storing them. Perhaps most importantly, the *Beginner’s Guide* includes high-quality photographs and line drawings of representative coins, making it easy to identify them. Our collector’s solidus is mentioned in the text but not pictured.



Ancient Coin Collecting V: The Romaion/Byzantine Culture. Wayne G. Sayles is a coin dealer and numismatic writer who has specialized in ancient coins for over 50 years. He was the founder and original publisher of *The Celator*, a monthly journal covering all aspects of ancient and medieval coins. The ANA has recognized him with the Presidential Award and the Glenn B. Smedley Memorial Award.

The Romaion/Byzantine Culture is the fifth volume in Sayles's *Ancient Coin Collecting Series*. It provides the beginner with a road map for collecting Byzantine coins (which, Sayles notes, is a misnomer: the word "Byzantine" was not applied to the Empire until more than a century after its demise; its citizens were "Romans" to the end). Sayles provides almost encyclopedic information about Byzantine coin denominations, mints, iconography and history; a gallery of emperors and empresses, with a bibliography for each ruler; descriptions of coins struck by other nations imitating Byzantine coins; and 16 "Masterpieces of Romaion Coinage" that demonstrate the artistic heights the coinage could reach.

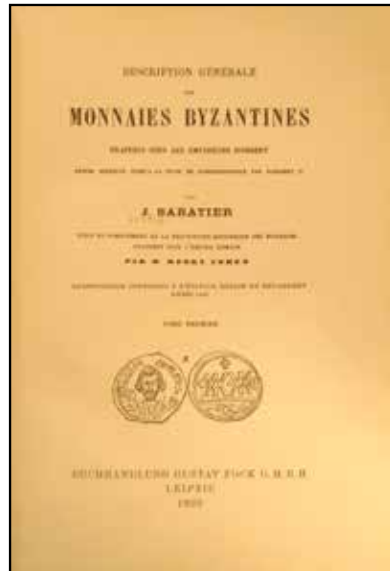
Collector Reference Catalogs

Having become well-grounded as a beginner in the field of Byzantine coins, our collector will expand her knowledge with reference catalogs intended for collectors.

Description Générale des Monnaies Byzantines Frappées sous les Empereurs D'Orient.

Written by Justin Sabatier (1792-1870) in 1862, this was the first full catalog of Byzantine coins, describing the coins of the emperors Arcadius (reigned 395-408) through John VIII (reigned 1423-1448). Sabatier also included coins of various pretenders to the throne, and coins of the splinter states that arose when Constantinople fell to the Fourth Crusade in 1204; there are even a few coins of Mohammed II, who conquered Byzantium in 1453. Sabatier writes briefly of the reign of the last Byzantine emperor, Constantine XI (reigned 1448-1453); in the absence of any known coins attributable to him, Sabatier presumed that Constantine refused to strike any.

Sabatier was a prominent collector of Byzantine coins. He based his catalog on his study of his own collection and the collections of other major collectors (many of whom were his friends), on his review of the major published works then available, and on his examination of the great public collections in the museums in London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin and Copenhagen. Despite the occasional error (he attributed a gold coin to Manuel II, the father of Constantine IX, but Manuel never struck gold coins), our collector will learn a great deal from Sabatier, including how much her coin was estimated to be worth in 1862 (15 francs,



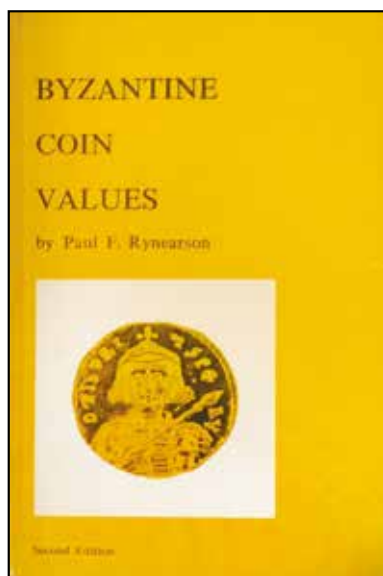
or approximately US \$8.70; our collector probably paid a bit more for her specimen). Her solidus is pictured in a line drawing on Plate XLIII, #7 of Volume 2 (the text mis-identifies the location as Plate XLII).

A Handbook of the Coinage of the Byzantine Empire. Another major collector of Byzantine coins, Hugh Goodacre (1865-1952) published this work in three parts between 1928 and 1933; the three parts were collected and published as a single volume in 1957, five years after Goodacre's death. He covers the coins from Arcadius to Constantine XI, as well as the coins of the Latin emperors (1204-1261) and the emperors of the breakaway states of Thessalonica (1204-1246) and Nicaea (1206-1261).

Goodacre's work was for many years the standard reference on Byzantine coins. In many respects he tracks *Monnaies Byzantines*: like Sabatier, Goodacre listed the (non-existent) gold coin of Manuel II, and assumed that Constantine XI refused to issue coins in his own name (Goodacre's statement on this point is almost a direct English translation of Sabatier). Goodacre goes beyond Sabatier in providing more extensive biographies of the emperors, putting the coinage in better historical context: our collector would learn that Theophilus was a highly cultured, well-educated man, who reigned as the second emperor of the Amorian Dynasty, from 829 to 842. Goodacre identifies our collector's solidus as the product of a "Provincial" mint, but does not identify which mint. He describes but does not picture the coin, listing it as Theophilus' coin #2 and pricing it at £35 (approximately US \$152.00 in 1931).

Byzantine Coin Values. Dr. Paul F. Rynearson (1945-2012) was an art historian and dealer in ancient and medieval coins. He intended his *Byzantine Coin Values*, originally published in paperback in 1967 with a hardback second edition appearing in 1971, to serve as a price guide for collectors. It covers Byzantine gold and silver coins from Arcadius until the end of the Empire, but begins coverage of the bronze coins a century later with Anastasius I: Rynearson tells our collector that Anastasius' reform of the bronze coinage in 498 is often considered to mark the beginning of Byzantine coinage. Rynearson lists each emperor's coins by metal, denomination and (major) mint, but generally does not break out the coins by sub-types. This was the first guide to note that the gold coin attributed to Manuel II might not be genuine. Rynearson's

great innovation was to assign a defined rarity level to each coin, in addition to providing estimated prices; his rarity levels are still generally valid, but the prices became obsolete long ago. Rynearson identified our collector's solidus as coin #309 and gave it rarity level R3 ("Common"), pricing it in 1971 at \$40 - \$65.



Le Monete Siciliane dai Bizantini a Carlo I d'Angiò (582-1282). Rodolfo Spahr (1894-1981) was Swiss by nationality but was born and spent most of his life in Catania, the second largest city in Sicily. He spent 60 years studying, collecting and writing about the coins of Sicily. First published in 1976, his *Le Monete Siciliane dai Bizantini a Carlo I d'Angiò* covers Byzantine coins struck in Sicily, as well as the coins of the Arabs, the Normans and the Hohenstaufens of the Holy Roman Empire who later ruled Sicily in their turn. This book, with Spahr's *Le Monete Siciliane dagli Aragonesi ai Borboni (1282-1836)*, is the standard work on the coins of medieval and modern Sicily, and our collector would be sure to include it in her library.

She will learn from Spahr that Theophilos was the last emperor to strike a gold solidus in Sicily: the island was under attack by the Arabs throughout his reign, and Syracuse, the Byzantine capital and principal mint in Sicily, finally fell to them in 878. Spahr provides photographs of three gold solidi that are similar to our collector's coin, which is cataloged as Spahr 422.

Monete Byzantine di Sicilia. Marco Anastasi published his book in 2009 with the intention of adding to, and perhaps surpassing, Spahr's *Le Monete Siciliane*, at least with respect to the Byzantine coinage. Anastasi took a different approach from the writers who came before him: he focused more on the numismatic market itself, consulting coin dealers and reviewing sales and auction catalogs. As a result, his catalog is somewhat less "scholarly" than the others, but at the same time somewhat more attuned to what collectors regularly encounter. Anastasi lists 589 principal Byzantine coin types (Spahr listed 445), with the final coin being a never-before-published bronze of Basil I (reigned 867-886). This is significant to collectors of Byzantine coins because, before this, there were no known Sicilian bronzes of Basil I, but it is particularly significant to our collector because of who Basil I was: Basil came to the throne by first befriendng, and then murdering Michael III (reigned 842-867), the son of Theophilos, thereby ending the Amorion Dynasty and its coinage.

Anastasi lists several coins of the same general type as our collector's solidus; Anastasi 524b is the closest to her coin. He dates it to 830-831, which is probably a bit too early in Theophilos' reign, but our collector will need to study more to know that. Anastasi estimated the market price for her coin in EF condition to be €700 as of 2008, approximately \$1,026.00.

Byzantine Coins and Their Values. A professional numismatist for over 60 years, David Sear has written numerous award-winning books on ancient coins. He has



received the ANA's Presidential Award and the Glenn B. Smedley Memorial Award. *Byzantine Coins and Their Values*, first published in 1974 and revised and re-published in 1987, lists 2,645 coins – virtually every major Byzantine coin type known at the time of publication – with over 600 photographs. Sear covers all the emperors and empresses, from Anastasius I to Constantine XI: this was the first collector catalog to include one of Constantine XI's coins, which first became known just three months before the Sear catalog was published. Sear fully describes each coin, and provides the coin's inscription using the same text fonts the Byzantines used.

In addition to cataloging the coins, Sear provides maps showing the Empire at various stages of its history and the locations of its mints; general descriptions of the denominations and types of Byzantine coinage, and the mints in which they were struck; explanations of the dating system and inscriptions that appear on the coins; a bibliography for further reading and research; and even a chapter that identifies and describes 94 potentially dangerous forgeries of Byzantine coins (our collector took steps to authenticate her coin before purchasing it).

Sear cataloged her coin as Sear 1670 and estimated its value in EF condition at £300 in 1987, equivalent to approximately US \$491.00. Our collector would learn from Sear that coins of the same type as hers can be found in the collections of the British Museum in London, the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, and the Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC.

Byzantine Coins and Their Values has been the standard catalog for collectors of Byzantine coins since its first publication. Fitts's *Beginner's Guide* specifically recommends this text, and provides advice on how best to use it.

Published Collections

The references in Sear's *Byzantine Coins and Their Values* to the major public collections of Byzantine coins would lead our collector to pursue the published catalogs of those collections. While her single Byzantine coin would be no more than a small speck in one of the great collections, it is her speck, and she wants to see how her coin fits in. She is also interested in information that those collections might provide with respect to her coin.

Imperial Byzantine Coins in the British Museum. Warwick Wroth (1858-1911) was Senior Assistant Keeper of Coins and Medals in the British Museum. Volume I of his catalog provides more than 100 pages of background material on Byzantine coins (including a historical and numismatic summary and much useful information about the denominations, weights, types, art and portraiture of the coins; the mints in which the coins were struck; and inscriptions and dates appearing on the coins), followed by a detailed catalogue of coins from Anastasius I through Constans II (reigned 641-668). Volume II covers the period from the reign of Constantine IV (668-685) through the Fall of Constantinople in 1453, followed by indexes and appendices of the emperors, mints, coin types and certain "Remarkable Inscriptions," and concludes with tables of measures.

The original text contains good quality collotype plates of the coins: Wroth was the first writer to use photographs rather than line drawings of the coins. Several reprints

have become available since the original publication in 1908, some of them essentially photocopies of the original text, but the quality of the plates in the original is better than in any of the reprints.

While Wroth is generally very accurate in describing the coins, a few errors did slip in. The most significant error, but one not important to our collector, concerns the gold coin attributed to Manuel II – who struck no gold coins. Wroth provides a full description of this “coin” from the Museum’s collection, including a picture in the plates, and identifies it as “rare.”

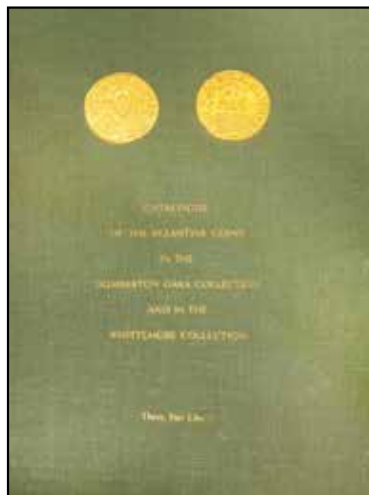
Wroth catalogued three examples of our collector’s coin, as BMC 31, BMC 32 and BMC 33, with a full written description of the coins and the names of the source/donors of two of them. BMC 31, the Museum specimen most like our collector’s coin, appears on Plate XLIX. Wroth identifies the coin as the product of a “Provincial” mint, rather than Constantinople, but is uncertain as to the location of the mint: he suggests that “Sardinia and Sicily may possibly have had a share in it,” but elsewhere notes that Byzantine coinage on Sicily ceased after the Arabs sacked Syracuse in 705; this is another error, as the Arabs did not sack Syracuse until 878, which is when Byzantine coinage ceased in Sicily.

Catalogue of Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection and in the Whittemore Collection.

Philip Grierson (1910-2006) was professor of numismatics at Cambridge University for more than 70 years; he was also professor of numismatics at the Université Libre de Bruxelles for 34 of those years, and served as honorary adviser and curator at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection for 42 years. His personal coin collection, which he donated to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, comprised over 20,000 medieval coins and was considered the finest private collection of medieval coins in the world. During his tenure at the Dumbarton Oaks, Grierson built and, with several collaborators, published the finest of all Byzantine coin collections: the scope and quality of the coins, and Grierson’s scholarship, have made the Dumbarton Oaks Catalog the standard catalog reference for Byzantine numismatics.

Our collector would find three different authentic examples and four contemporary counterfeits of her coin in Part One of Volume Three of the Dumbarton Oaks Catalog, all pictured in the plates and fully-described in the text. Our collector’s coin matches the three genuine examples in the catalog in both its weight and its inscriptions; it does not match any of the counterfeits, which weigh significantly less than the genuine coins, and have blundered inscriptions.

Our collector’s coin depicts a bust of Theophilus on both obverse and reverse, and the inscriptions are limited to giving his name in a mix of Greek and Latin letters. Our



collector would learn from Grierson's notes that this coin was part of the third and final series of gold solidi that Theophilos struck in Sicily, during the period 831-842.

Catalogue des Monnaies Byzantines de la Bibliothèque Nationale. Cécile Morrisson is a historian and numismatist who concentrates on Byzantine coins and economic history. She was a student of Philip Grierson, and in 1998 she succeeded him as advisor for Byzantine numismatics at Dumbarton Oaks. In 1970, she published her doctoral dissertation as the *Catalogue des Monnaies Byzantines de la Bibliothèque Nationale*. She begins with a history of the French national collection of Byzantine coins, tracing its origins to a bequest of fifty Byzantine gold coins to Louis XIV in 1660, and then catalogs the coins of each emperor from Anastasius I to Alexius III, who fled Constantinople in 1203 in the face of the Fourth Crusade.

Our collector would find that the Bibliothèque Nationale holds four coins that are like her solidus, each superbly photographed in the plates. She would also learn from Morrisson that the solidi that the Byzantines struck in Syracuse in the 8th and 9th Century time consistently weighed less than the solidi struck in Constantinople, and that they may have been the *mancuses* mentioned in Italian writings of the time (*mancus* was apparently taken from an Arabic word that the Europeans originally used to refer to an early Arabic gold coin, which was notable for weighing less than the Byzantine gold solidus).

Treatises

Now thoroughly grounded in the field of Byzantine coins, our collector will move on to more scholarly works that analyze the coins themselves and their historical context.

Byzantine Coins. Philip D. Whitting (1903-1988), a history Master at St Paul's School in London from 1929 to 1963, was a major collector and scholar of Byzantine coins. He donated his collection to the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in Birmingham in 1967. Thanks largely to Whitting, the Barber Institute now possesses one of the finest collections of Byzantine coins in the world, with over 8,000 coins.

Whitting surveys Byzantine coinage from Anastasius I through John VIII (he published the year before the announcement of the first known coin of Constantine XI). "Book I" provides a general introduction that describes the metals, denominations and mints the Byzantines used, explains Byzantine minting practices, and includes a bibliography of important works. "Book II" provides a reign-by-reign "Chronology, Comment and Description" of the coins. Whitting concludes with four Appendices which cover common coin and weight names, the robes and regalia that appear on the coins, a description of the Byzantine (Greek) numbering system and alphabet, a few of the more common inscriptions, and a list of the Byzantine emperors and dynasties. Whitting also provides 92 black and white plates and 20 color plates, displaying over 400 exceptional photographs. In his Foreword, Whitting thanks the Barber Institute for permitting him to use the coin photographs, which is somewhat endearing – nearly all the coins pictured are coins he donated to the Barber Institute.

Whitting explains to our collector the significance of the robes which Theophilos wears on the coins. On the side of the coin generally identified as the obverse,

Theophilos wears the *chlamys*, a long purple cloak that an emperor first put on at his coronation ceremony; it represented the emperor's political authority. On the reverse, Theophilos wears a *loros* (Wroth called it a “robe of lozenge pattern”), originally a toga worn by the Roman consuls, but in Byzantine times representing Jesus' burial cloth, with the elaborate decorations representing Jesus' Resurrection. The *loros* indicated the emperor's religious authority.

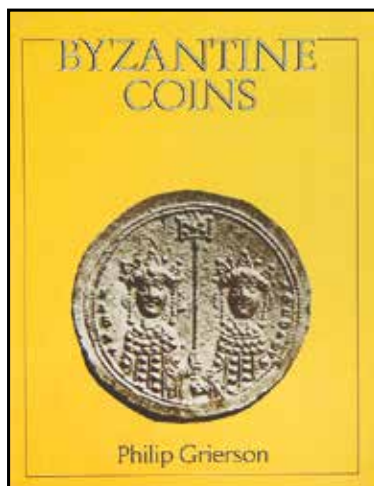
Byzantine Coins. Philip Grierson published his own *Byzantine Coins* nine years after Whitting. He intended for his work to serve as a handbook that would provide a general history of Byzantine coinage and a descriptive guide to the coins for an audience of general readers, as well as historians, numismatists and collectors (Grierson distinguished between “numismatists,” who may or may not also collect coins, but who always seek to understand coinage through study and analysis, and “collectors,” who focus on the enjoyment of owning coins; as a result of her bibliomania, our collector has by now become a numismatist).

Grierson begins with a general survey providing the origins and background of the coinage of the late Roman Empire. He then describes the phases of Byzantine coinage, identifies the metals, denominations and marks of value of the coins, reviews the mint marks and dating systems used on the coins, and explains generally the types, inscriptions and accessory symbols. The bulk of the work is a study of the coinage during various historical periods and dynasties.

Grierson's 95 plates picture 1,527 coins, one of which is a solidus that is the same type as our collector's coin. Grierson displays it next to a “barbarous” coin, one with a blundered inscription and very crude portraiture: this is probably an Arab imitation of the official Byzantine coin. Our collector would be pleased to see that her coin very closely resembles the genuine coin in its design and weight, and is very different from the imitation.

Grierson explains to our collector that “[t]he commonness of Theophilos' Sicilian gold may be attributed to military needs, for gold would have been required to pay for troops and equipment and the constant warfare with the Arabs would result in much of it being concealed.” (p. 187).

Byzantine Coinage in Italy. Alberto D'Andrea is a numismatic researcher, writer and publisher whose work focuses primarily on the coins of medieval Italy. His 3-volume study *Byzantine Coinage in Italy* covers the entire history of Byzantine coinage in Italy, from its beginnings circa 540 under Justinian the Great (reigned 527-565) until the 1072 conquest by the Normans of Bari, the last Byzantine outpost in Italy. Volume III, coauthored with Cesare Costantini and Andrea Torno Ginnasi, covers the period



from the reign of Philipppicus Bardanes (711-713) to the fall of Bari during the reign of Michael VII Dukas (1071-1078), and thus includes our collector's coin.

D'Andrea describes and provides color pictures of two different examples of our collector's coin, identified as D'Andrea 876a and D'Andrea 876b. In January 2017 he valued the coin in EF condition at €1,200 (approximately US \$1,270). Our collector will learn from D'Andrea that the gold content of her coin was significantly debased: while the solidus Theophilos struck in Constantinople was almost pure gold, the solidus he struck in Syracuse was only about .600 fine (60% gold); according to D'Andrea, the fineness of the gold in the solidus of Theophilos' father, Michael II (reigned 820-829), was as high as .750 (75% gold).

Conclusion

Thanks to her bibliomania, our collector is now an expert numismatist, or at least, an expert with respect to the Sicilian gold coins of the emperor Theophilos. She now has an important decision to make: should she select another coin, and buy the books to go along with it? Or should she just buy some more books, and let them direct her next coin purchase? But that's a decision for another article...

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A Beautiful, Well-Traveled Coin Book with a Long Title

By Norman J. Cochrane

The book is *Studio sul löwenthaler ed il mezzo löwenthaler delle Province Unite d'Olanda e sulle loro imitazioni e contraffazioni italiane e straniere* by Cesare Gamberini di Scarfia.

A connection of provenance to my custodianship of the book starts at the chronological end of the story. In *The Asylum*, Volume 32 No. 1, Jan.–Mar. 2014, George Frederick Kolbe presented “Reminiscences of a Numismatic Bookseller 4.” He told of acquiring a significant library from a Mr. Faistauer for which Mr. Kolbe had to travel to Brazil. Faistauer was an Austrian who had been a coin dealer in Lisbon, Portugal but now resided on a “farm” in Brazil. The trip was in February 1999 and Mr. Kolbe’s description of the challenges and security precautions surrounding the Faistauer compound is quite exciting. The items were purchased and shipped to the U.S.A.

On November 13, 1999 George Kolbe’s Auction Sale Number 79 closed. Consignment “FF” of that sale was approximately one-half of the material purchased from Mr. Faistauer. The source of consignment “FF” was not revealed, or at least not available to me, until the 2014 article in *The Asylum*. I was successful bidder on Lot No. 1024 in that consignment, a book on Italian and other imitations of the Netherlands lion daler, full title above. The book is custom bound, part in brown leather with gold embossing, a very attractive small book. This copy is No. 115 of 500 printed. I feel privileged to be the caretaker of this book.

This is numismatic literature serendipity!



A Well-Noted Numismatic Book by John Yonge Akerman

By David Pickup

We were having a clear-out at home and decided to reduce the number of books. (A decision that would freeze the blood of true bibliophiles—why cannot I keep everything?) The idea was to get rid of anything that we would not read again even if it was enjoyed the first time. A good rule you might think and so it was; but I also checked each book to see if it had any inscriptions. I like books with inscriptions such as “Happy Christmas” and the date it was given or a note or why they thought I would like it.

I have two copies of a certain numismatic book. One is in reasonable condition and the other is well read, marked, written in, falling apart, badly repaired and generally not good. It was written by John Yonge Akerman, published in 1846, and is called *Numismatic Illustrations of the Narrative Portions of the New Testament*. They went in for snappy titles then. Akerman has long been a favourite author of mine. He had a number of careers in his long life and published on a wide range of subjects. He was one of the first authors to write specialist books on coins.

My main interest in this particular volume is the inscriptions on the inside covers.

P 24 Coin Juda

Found at

At Newp.....

Plate No 8

£25

William Yarrell
Ryder Street
St James

1847
Nov 1847

*To E Milner Barry
May 4th 1850*

*Scothorne Vicarage
Lincoln*

Page 2 contains a newspaper cutting about Mr Yarrell's library dated by hand Nov 24 1856

And Price £1.10 possibly written in felt tip.

The title page has the following written in pencil, *Batley 2/- Oct 31/18*



MR. YARRELL'S LIBRARY.

The library of the late Mr. Yarrell, vice-president of the Linnean Society, was sold at auction by Mr. J. C. Stevens, at 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday week. It comprised a great collection of standard works in the various branches of natural history, and records of the transactions of scientific and literary societies. We notice among the lots which were sold, in octavo, the first edition of Bewick's History of British Birds, with supplement, which fetched 5*l.* 15*s.*; Bytton's Monograph on the Duck Tribe, 4*l.* 4*s.*; Bulletin of the Imperial Society of Naturalists at Moscow, from 1847 to 1854; a rare and choice edition of Walton and Cotton's Angler, with plates, 9*l.*; John Jackson's Treatise on Wood Engraving, with 800 illustrations, 4*l.* 5*s.*; the Fauna of Scandinavia, 2*l.* 10*s.*; Kay's Zoology of New York, with coloured plates, 3*l.* 10*s.*; Sibbald's Scotia Historia Naturalis, 2*l.* 8*s.*; Harvey's History of British Sea Weeds, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Todd's Cyclopaedia of Anatomy, 6*l.* 10*s.*; Yarrell's British Birds, with Bewick's cuts, 8 vols., imperial octavo, 2*l.*; another copy of Yarrell's British Birds, on large paper, 10*l.* 10*s.*; several other editions of the same work, at good prices; Audubon's Birds of America, 7 vols., coloured plates, 36*l.*; Audubon's Ornithological Biography, 10*l.* 10*s.*; Cuvier's Works, edited by M. Valenciennes, 22 vols., 4*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; in quarto, the Zoology of the "Beagle," 7*l.* 10*s.*; Reeve's Conchology, illustrated with 1,500 figures, 7*l.* 6*s.*; Fauna of British America, by Richardson, Swainson, and Kirby, 7*l.*; Olafsen's Islandiske Reise, 6*l.* 10*s.*; Alder and Hancock's Monograph of the British Nudibranchiate Mollusca, 6*l.*; Smith's Zoology of South Africa, with coloured plates, 13*l.* 10*s.*; Owen's Odontography, 9*l.* 15*s.*; Lucien Bonaparte's American Ornithology, 3*l.*; and in folios there were Selby's British Ornithology, with two vols. of plates, 6*l.* 10*s.*; John Gould's Birds of Europe, 8*vo.* vols., with coloured plates, 9*l.*; John Gould's Birds of Australia, 7 vols., 7*l.*; Gould's Century of Birds from the Himalayas, 9*l.*; Gould's Birds of Asia, 12*l.*; Gould's Mammals of Australia, 11*l.* 10*s.*; his Partridges of America, 5*l.* 15*s.*; his Humming Birds, 23*l.*; his Toucans, 7*l.*; and his Family of Trogons, 5*l.*; Block's Ichthyologie, 20*l.*; Gray's Genera of Birds, illustrated, 16*l.* 5*s.*; Gleanings from the Menagerie and Aviary at Knowsley Hall, 4*l.* The total amount realized by the sale was 1,100*l.*

Nov. 24
1856.

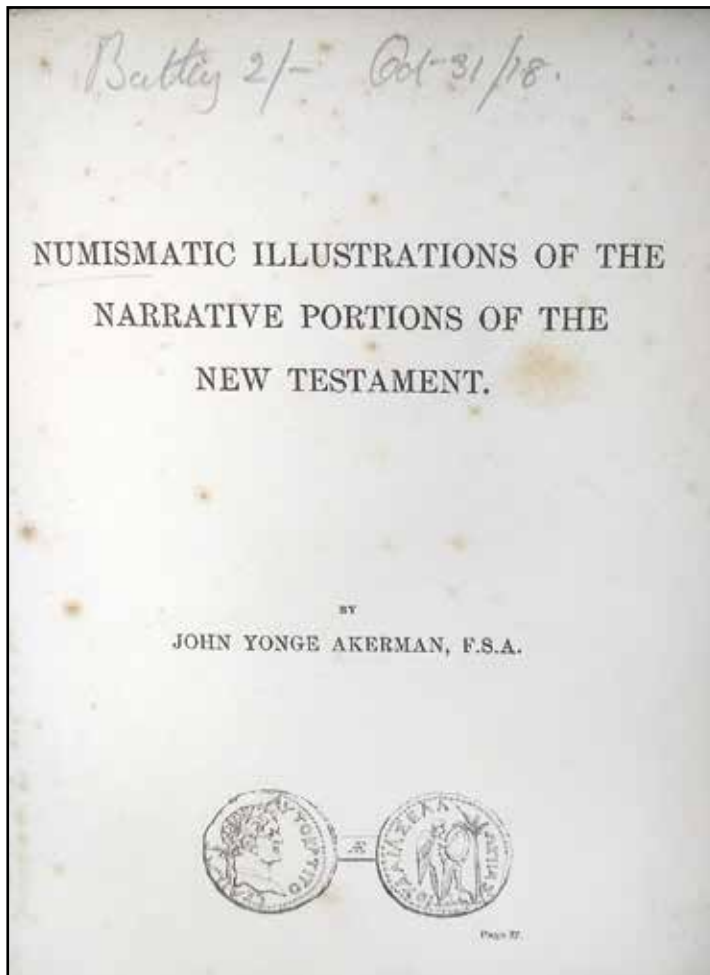
On page 62 someone has highlighted the part of the text which refers to the reverse of a very fine coin in the collection of Mr. Sparkes and that illustration of that coin has the note "Lincoln."

Inside the book there are notes in pencil such as 5-1 or 4-1 alongside some coins which may be prices.

Well Watson, as Sherlock Holmes would have said, what do you make of this little book? The book has obviously been through a number of different owners' hands.

The book was published in 1846 and the inscription refers to the first owner, one William Yarrell living in St James' in London who bought the book in 1847. Yarrell does not seem to have made much impression as a numismatist. He was, however, a well-known zoologist. *The Dictionary of National Biography*¹ tells us that:

He was born in 1784 at St. James's, where his father, in partnership with his uncle, W. Jones, carried on the business of newspaper agent and bookseller.



resting on a globe. (See Plate, No. 4.)

No. III.—IMP. CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG. Laureated head to the right.

R.—IVDAEA. A female figure seated on the ground at the foot of a trophy. (See Plate, No. 6.)

No. IV.—IMP. CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG. Laureated head to the right.

R.—IVDAEA DEVICTA. A female figure, with her hands bound before her, standing before a palm tree.

(See Plate, No. 5.)

TITUS.

LARGE BRASS.

No. I.—T. CAES. IMP. AVG. F. PON. COS. VI. CENSOR
(*Titus Caesar, Imperator, Augusti filius, Pontifex, Consul sextum, Censor*). Laureated, to the right.

R.—IVDAEA CAPTA. A female figure, in an attitude of dejection, seated on a heap of arms at the foot of a palm tree; on the other side of which stands a male captive with his hands bound behind his back: in the exergue, S. C. (See Plate, No. 7.)

No. II.—Legend as No. 1. Head as No. 1.

R.—Legend as No. 1. Type as No. 1, except that the male figure has his back to the palm tree, and turns to regard the captive female.³⁹ (See Plate, No. 8.)

³⁹ The coin from which the engraving is made was discovered in 1830 at Lincoln, five feet below the surface of the ground, while opening the postern of Newport Arch.

In 1850 on the death of his cousin he inherited business he was able to take a certain amount of relaxation, and found pleasure in the pursuits of fishing and shooting. This afforded him opportunities for making outdoor observations in natural history, in various parts of the country, which later in life were turned to good account in the preparation of the standard works on 'British Birds' and 'British Fishes' which have since made his name famous. In the course of his outdoor pursuits he was able to secure many specimens of birds which he forwarded to Bewick, who engraved them with due acknowledgment.

As early as 1825 Yarrell had formed a fair collection of British birds and their eggs, as well as a collection of British fishes, to which he continued to make additions as opportunity occurred. These provided him with much material for his two great works, the one completed in 1836 under the title of a 'History of British Fishes,' the other in 1843 under that of a 'History of British Birds.'

Yarrell died at Great Yarmouth in Norfolk on 1 Sept. 1856. His remains were interred in the churchyard of Bayford, Hertfordshire, where those of his parents, his brothers and sisters were already buried. Perhaps Yarrell read it, liked it, but encouraged by his family he had a clear-out for we next find,

Given To E Milner Barry May 4th 1850

*Scothorne Vicarage
Lincoln*

What can we find out about him? A search of National Archives reveals a letter from the Rev E Milner Barry the vicarage Scotthorne Lincoln. He was complaining about poor drains, a favourite hobby in England. He was also a reader for the *Oxford English Dictionary* and contributed 2,000 quotations to it.²

A further search confirms Scotthorne (as it is now spelled) has a church dedicated to St. Germain. The church has a 12th Century chancel and later tower. It was restored in 1796, 1840, 1861 and 1904. Interestingly a hoard of silver coins was recorded as being found within the church, at around the turn of the 19th century. The finding was recorded in Cragg's, 'History of Lincolnshire' (published c.1820), where p.143 states: 'A few years ago two quarts of silver coins were found in the wall of the north aisle of the church'. Rev Allison notes in his c.1911 article, 'Scotthorne: A Paper on the History of the Village', that the coins had been held inside a red morocco slipper that had been placed in a niche in the wall. The date of reporting would suggest that the hoard was found during the 1796 restoration works, suggesting it had been deposited in the 17th or 18th century.³

I wonder if the vicar of Scotthorne became interested in coins after that discovery.

The inside cover note is about the coin catalogued on page 24 and illustrated at the back. It is a "large brass" or sestertius of Titus featuring Judea Capta. The coin was discovered in 1830 at Lincoln five feet below the surface of the ground while open-



ing the postern of Newport Arch. Newport Arch is the name given to the remains of a 3rd-century Roman gate in the city of Lincoln, Lincolnshire. It is a scheduled monument and Grade I listed building and is reputedly the oldest arch in the United Kingdom still used by traffic.⁴

Lincoln is a medieval city with a fine cathedral and also has a strong connection with the Romans. It was called Lindum and founded in the mid-1st century AD as the base for the ill-fated Ninth Legion. One theory is the Ninth could have been destroyed during the Jewish revolt led by Simon ben Kosiba in 132-136. Perhaps Rev Milner acquired the coin and then got the book to find out more.

The book passed through other hands and was bought in a sale in 1918 for two shillings. I would like to think it was enjoyed by others one who paid £1 and 10 pence, until I acquired it I think for £25.00. It is amazing how many links there are from one book and the various collectors who have treasured it. I cannot help thinking about the man or woman who had served in Palestine and when he or she was posted to cold and wet eastern England decided to donate an offering of a coin that mentioned Judea when the city wall was finished. Perhaps they were thinking of lost friends and family or just grateful to be alive. Perhaps they wanted to appease the gods or was there something about the Jews who only had one God that appealed to him or her, or the story of the God that died and came back to life? We shall never know.

NOTES

- 1 *Dictionary of National Biography* online version
- 2 *Oxford English Dictionary*, contributors biographical information.
- 3 Heritage Gateway online
- 4 Wikipedia



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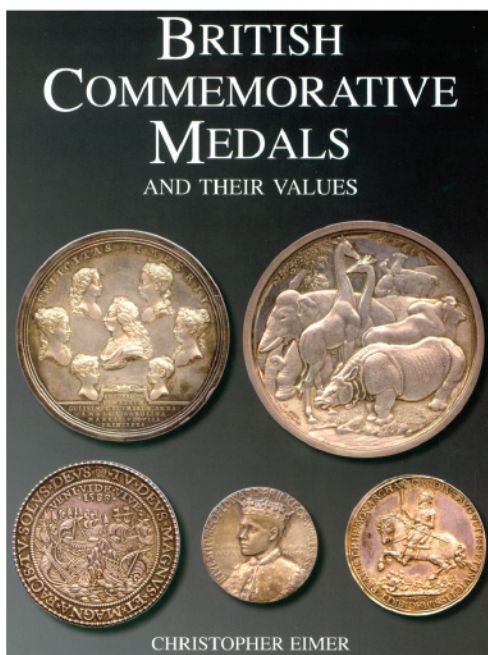
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